

in the debris and the upper floors, which had collapsed, were gradually settling. Eldridge began to tunnel through the wreckage with his bare hands and, fearing that the fire would spread, he ignored the principles of safe shoring and succeeded in rescuing two women before the fire reached them.

Eldridge showed courage without thought for his own safety.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Alfred George Allen, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Brighton.
Horace Slade, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Brighton.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
22nd February, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Leonard Gordon Abbott, Fireman, Merchant Navy.

William Caldicott, Galley Boy, Merchant Navy.

For gallantry in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Thomas Burgin, Labourer, Royal Air Force Station.

James Alwyne Stanton, Canteen Manager, Royal Air Force Station.

An aircraft crashed on taking off and burst into flames. Blazing petrol and oil spread rapidly around the wreckage and incendiaries caught fire and exploded.

Burgin and Stanton, with no thought for their own safety, climbed on to a wing of the

burning aircraft and helped to extricate the pilot who was injured and only half-conscious. When they had seen him taken to safety, they made a thorough search all round the aircraft to make sure that there were no further casualties, at the same time warning others who were approaching to keep clear.

Burgin and Stanton showed bravery and presence of mind in the face of great danger.

Henry Victor Hawes, Lenthman, Great Western Railway, Mortimer, Berkshire.

An aeroplane crashed and at once burst into flames. Hawes ran to the machine, which was upside down, and with help released the semi-conscious pilot from the cockpit. Hawes' clothes were covered with oil and petrol and he was slightly burnt. His gallant action in the dangerous circumstances was responsible for saving the life of the pilot.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct:—

When engaged in hazardous operations:—

Herbert Hamilton Harrison, Carpenter, Merchant Navy.

Maxwell Urban Jones, Fireman, Merchant Navy.

John Verblis, Greaser, Merchant Navy.

When rescuing people trapped under a collapsed building:—

Walter Hall, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Party, Middleton.

When fighting fires in ships:—

Captain David John Lewis, Master, Merchant Navy.

Captain Thomas Arthur Lupton, M.B.E., Master, Merchant Navy.

William Richard Thomas, Esq., Second Officer, Merchant Navy.

When helping to rescue the pilot of a crashed and burning aircraft:—

Thomas Kershaw, Labourer, Royal Air Force Station.

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